DAVID SAMSON ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: Megan K. Matthews
Deputy Attorney General
Division of Law - 5th Fl.
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Tel. (973) 648-7454

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February 28, 2003
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MEDTCAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION : OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :

Administrative Action

JAY KURIS, M.D. License No. MA25427

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY: IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened in January 2001 to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") by the receipt of information indicating that Dr. Kuris had provided receipts for medical treatment rendered by another, unlicensed, individual.

Respondent appeared with counsel before a Preliminary Evaluation Committee ("Committee") of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners on August 28, 2002 and testified that upon occasion Penny Saltzman, CADC ("Saltzman") purchased his supervisory guidance on an hourly basis. Dr. Kuris identified and reviewed the bill he had rendered to Saltzman for his services. Eventually, that bill was given to her patient. The bills

were produced on Dr. Kuris' stationary, with Saltzman's name appearing nowhere on the bill. However, Dr. Kuris testified that the itemized list of visits on the bills reflected the dates that Saltzman and her client met, not the dates that Dr. Kuris consulted with Saltzman. The bills reflect charges for two of the patient's missed appointments with Saltzman. Further, the receipt shows the fee Saltzman charged her client, not the fee that Dr. Kuris charged Saltzman for his supervision.

Dr. Kuris has used the same billing method for all the patients for which he provided Saltzman with supervisory guidance. He stopped using this billing method in April of 2001 when the Board brought the matter to his attention. Also, he has not initiated any new supervisory patients with Saltzman, and has phased the existing patients out. He has not provided Saltzman with supervision since April of 2002.

The above conduct constitutes aiding and abetting of misrepresentation, deception, and false pretense in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and also constitutes aiding and abetting the preparation of a written statement that is intended to be presented to an insurance company in support of a claim for payment in violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A and thus in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(k).

In determining an appropriate resolution to this matter, the Board has taken into account Dr. Kuris' assertion that he was unaware of and had not given his consent to some of the! specific uses at issue here. While Dr. Kuris may not have intentionally mislead or deceived, the bills issued on Dr. Kuris's letterhead created the impression that the services rendered by Saltzman had in fact been provided by Dr. Kuris. The use of these bills represent a serious error in judgment on the part of Dr.

Kuris. The Board accepts Dr. Kuris' assertion that he intended his actions, practices and procedures be fully consistent with ethical, legal and professional obligations as commonly recognized and interpreted by the practicing community of licensed professionals in this area. The Board gives particular weight to Dr. Kuris' voluntary decision to cease the aforementioned billing arrangement and his assertion that he made no improper personal gain from the said billings. The Board recognizes Dr. Kuris' cooperation and willingness to modify his professional practice and to ensure avoidance of any appearance of such problems in the future.

Respondent being desirous of resolving this matter, and the Board finding the within Order to be adequately protective of the public interest;

IT IS THEREFORE on this 17 day of February, 2003, ORDERED that:

- 1. Respondent Jay Kuris, M.D., be and hereby **is** reprimanded for aiding and abetting deceptive **billing** practices in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and aiding and abetting the preparation of a written statement that is intended to be presented to an insurance company in support of a claim for payment in apparent violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A and thus in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(k).
- 2. Respondent shall take and successfully complete, at his own expense, a Board approved course in appropriate record keeping techniques and a Board approved course in ethics. Successful completion means that all sessions were attended, all assignments were properly and appropriately completed, and a passing grade was achieved which was unconditional and without reservations. Respondent shall submit to the

Board verification of the successful completion of said course within twelve (12) months hereof.

3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$2500.00 upon the execution of this order.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Wille Harres MP BLD

William V. Harrer, M.D., B.L.D.
President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.

Jay Kuris, M.D.

I have read and consent to the form of the Order above.

Richard Tanner, Esq.